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ment^s. It saves time. It saves labour, and in short, it whittens the cloth, without weakening its strength and its fibre.

Now, my good friend, it seems strange, that you, who are so much for speculation, adventure, and improvement in your own profession, should think that the constitution of politics can never stand in need of improvement. For my part, I consider a reform in the common house of parliament, a *sine qua non* of national education. Education is only bleaching a brown web into a white one. These are both processes which admit of much abridgment. The common mind, dirty and soiled, like the brown and soaped web, may be whitened and purified more safely, certainly, and expeditiously, than it has been. In that dirty manganese is contained the essence of the process, its vital air. Its *virtue* lay, and would still have lain neglected, had not the power of philosophy drawn it from its darkness and dungeon. In this coarse and unpromising ore, we discover that vital air, that popular power, which those who know its value, and those only, can draw forth, to purge, and purify the stains and foulnesses, which every thing on earth contracts, mental or material, and what is oldest, most. There is a hidden value in the most common things. Blest is the government which has the inclination to educe it. But most governments wish the manufacture of mind to be idle. Their *neglect*, like buttermilk sour, rots the cloth. Their vitriol sour of *strong* government burns it. Our weakness, our vices, and our prejudices are found the most productive sources of revenue. The cloth will at length be whitened by nature's process; by the air, the light, and the water: so the natural improveability of humanity, may be accelerated by the benevolent ingenuity of art. The true *staple* of every country is MAN, he may be exposed to the purer air of philosophy, or remain in the stagnant pool of corruption, he may be placed under the influence either of a LANCASTER or of a FORSTER.

X.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

SEVENTH REPORT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN IRELAND.

To his Grace, Charles Duke of Richmond and Lenox, &c. Lord Lieutenant, general, and general Governor of Ireland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,

WE the undersigned commissioners, appointed for inquiring into the several funds and revenues granted for the purposes of education, and into the state and condition of all schools upon public or charitable foundations in Ireland, beg leave to lay before your grace our report upon the Hibernian School in the Phoenix Park, for maintaining, educating, and apprenticing the orphans and children of soldiers in Ireland.

A petition having been presented in the year 1769 to his present majesty, from the then lord primate, the archbishop of Dublin, the lord chancellor, with divers noblemen, bishops, judges, gentry, and clergy of the kingdom of Ireland, stating, "That upon the death of non-commissioned officers and private men in the army of said kingdom, and upon the removal of regiments, and of drafts from regiments to foreign service, great numbers of children had been left destitute of all means of subsistence; that a subscription had been set on foot in the year 1764, for raising a fund to support the establishment of an hospital, in order to preserve children left in such circumstances from popery, beggary, and idleness; that the subscribers had received great encouragement from parliament and the public, and said petitioners praying, that his majesty would be graciously pleased, by letters patent under the great seal of the said kingdom of Ireland to incorporate said petitioners and other subscribers to said charitable institution," his majesty was graciously pleased to approve of said charitable institution, and being desirous that it should be conducted with such economy and regularity as might rende

it a lasting benefit to the said military service of the kingdom of Ireland. did by letters patent, bearing date the 15th day of July 1769, incorporate said society by the name of "The Hibernian Society in Dublin, for maintaining, educating, and apprenticing the orphans and children of soldiers in Ireland for ever," together with the other powers necessary for the ends of their incorporation. This charter grants a common seal to the society, with powers to purchase, receive, and enjoy in perpetuity, lands, tenements, &c. not exceeding the amount of two thousand pounds per annum; to receive donations, and therewith to erect, maintain, and support in all places of the said kingdom, where they shall judge the same most necessary and convenient, such hospitals as they should think proper.

In order more effectually to promote the ends of the institution, his majesty was graciously pleased to grant a new charter to the society, bearing date the 6th of February, 1808, by which they are empowered to place in the regular army, as private soldiers, in such corps as from time to time his majesty shall please to appoint (but with their own free consent) the orphans and children of soldiers in Ireland for ever. By this charter also, the members of the corporation, formerly elective, are in future to be appointed by his majesty, or the lord lieutenant, or other chief governor or governors of Ireland for the time being; and the president and vice president, who were also heretofore elective, are to be always the lord lieutenant, and commander in chief of the forces, or, in his absence, the general officer commanding the troops in Ireland.

The Hibernian school, to which a farm of about nineteen acres is attached, stands in the south western angle of his majesty's Phoenix Park, about two English miles from the nearest part of the city, and nearly three from the castle of Dublin. The situation, which is elevated, commands an extensive and cheerful view over a rich and variegated tract of country, terminating in the Dublin and Wicklow mountains, and is in every respect

salubrious, with the exception of its being unhappily destitute of that prime necessary of life, good water. Efforts have been made to remedy so serious an evil by a forcing pump, but after sinking to a considerable depth, the water produced has been found fit for culinary purposes only; and a considerable quantity, for drinking, washing and other uses, still continues to be drawn up a steep ascent from the river Liffey with considerable toil and expense. Perennial springs, however, have been discovered in the Phoenix Park, from whence a plentiful supply of excellent water may be conducted to the institution by metal pipes, at an expense of about one thousand pounds, and a plan for this purpose has been submitted to the governors.

The foundation of the school was laid during the administration of lord Townshend, on the 31st of October 1766, and it was opened in 1767. Since that period the number of children has gradually increased to four hundred and fifty, the present establishment, of whom one hundred and fifty are females; a considerable augmentation however is in contemplation, and the extensive buildings already added, with others rapidly advancing, will render this school (which is to be assimilated as nearly as possible to the Chelsea Asylum) an institution of great national interest and importance. It consists of a centre one hundred and thirty-eight feet, by forty eight, connected by subordinate buildings to large projecting wings, eighty-four feet by fifty each, forming a front of three hundred feet, three stories high, and of plain substantial masonry. The center contains the boys' schools, a dining hall and dormitories, and at present the apartments of the chaplain, and adjutant, and steward; but as the eastern wing, now nearly finished, will contain commodious apartments for these officers, and also for the commandant, the rooms which they now occupy will be converted into an additional school-room, and dormitories for boys.

The present dining-hall, sixty-six feet by twenty, is barely sufficient for the present establishment; but the foundations of a spacious dining-hall, one hundred feet by forty, and thirty

two feet high, and sufficient to accommodate eight hundred children, have been laid at the rear of the boys' schools, with which it will communicate by covered corridors, one hundred and sixty feet long, by ten wide, in which the boys may play and parade in wet weather; when this is finished, the present dining hall will be converted into a school-room, and thus in the new arrangement there will be two school rooms for boys, each sixty six feet by twenty, and thirteen feet high, to which it is proposed to add a third of dimensions not inferior, taken from the present apartments of the officers; it is intended, as has been stated to us, that these school rooms shall be sufficiently spacious for the accommodation of six hundred children, but it would perhaps be advisable to subdivide them, as the noise occasioned by two hundred children reciting their lessons at once in the same room, must be very distressing to the teachers; this circumstance has in the founding hospital been judiciously attended to, where the schools do not exceed in dimensions forty feet by twenty, and the children instructed in each, seldom exceed seventy. The boys' dormitories, on the second floor, are very fine, they are over the school rooms and of similar dimensions, and as they communicate by an open arch-way in the center, they may be considered as one spacious apartment, one hundred and thirty-three feet long, by twenty wide, and thirteen feet high; as the windows, which are sufficiently numerous, face the north, these dormitories enjoy but little of the sun, yet in consequence of having a window at each end, they have thorough air, and seem perfectly free from damp; over these on the third floor are dormitories perfectly similar, and all these, with one of smaller dimensions on this floor, which is thirty-four by twenty four feet, are well lighted, well ventilated, and kept perfectly neat and clean, the beds, however, one hundred and forty-nine in number, are in contact without any space whatever between them; a circumstance not perhaps, favourable to health, and certainly productive of inconvenience

in making the beds, and cleansing the rooms; in each of these five dormitories an assistant sleeps to preserve order.

The western wing, already finished, is exclusively appropriated to the female children, one hundred and fifty in number, who are thus judiciously detached from the other parts of the establishment, having their own appropriate play ground; this wing contains, exclusive of a spacious staircase, a school room forty two feet by twenty one, a dining hall thirty seven feet by twenty one, with a wash-house and laundry, forty-six feet by seventeen, all on the ground floor; over the school room and dining hall, on the second and third floor, are dormitories of similar dimensions, containing eighty-one beds, and over the laundry are two as yet unappropriated rooms, forty-six by seventeen each; all these are spacious, airy, and lightsome, and are perfectly neat and clean, the beds here, however, as in the boys' dormitories, are in contact; in this wing there are also convenient apartments for two school-mistresses, contiguous to the dormitories.

The kitchen, bread-room, and other necessary stores, judiciously placed between the male and female parts of the institution, to which they are well connected, are spacious and convenient; apertures near the ceiling of the kitchen to emit the steam, which is occasionally excessive, would be an improvement.

The wings of the building, and the other additions are erected in a manner much to the credit of the architect, Mr. Johnson; the roof however of the original central building is so steep, and the slates so small, that it requires perpetual repair, and in stormy weather is dangerous, a circumstance which will no doubt be attended to, and remedied.

To the eastward of the dining hall, in an airy situation and perfectly detached, an infirmary is to be erected of dimensions proportionate to the number of the children to which it is proposed to augment the establishment: the two apartments used at present as infirmaries, thirty four by sixteen each, are not sufficiently ventilated for the purpose to which they are assigned, they are disproportioned

to the extent of the institution; and the fever-ward, though a well ventilated apartment thirty-three feet by twenty-three, is accessible only through the convalescent room; but these temporary inconveniences will of course terminate when the intended infirmary is finished, when these apartments will no doubt be applied to the enlargement of the foundation.

The chapel, about one hundred and eighty yards to the northward of the new dining-hall, from which it is separated by the garden, is neat and convenient, but not being sufficiently spacious to accommodate the number of children to which it is proposed to augment the establishment, it will probably be found necessary to enlarge it.

From the platform in front of the Hibernian school, the ground rapidly descends to the boundary wall and offices; the latter buildings, which at present greatly disfigure the general appearances of this fine institution, are to be taken down and rebuilt in the intended farm-yard; and this space, when properly dressed and brought as near to a level as local circumstances will admit, will form a noble area, in which the boys may play, and perform their military evolutions.

The farm attached to the school being entirely under cultivation, the cows necessary to supply milk, and generally thirty in number, are pastured in the Phoenix Park without any charge to the institution.

The children admissible into this school must be between the ages of seven and twelve years, and the children of non-commissioned officers or soldiers of the line, in actual service, or of soldiers deceased, or reduced, or removed to foreign service; they are admitted on the certificate of some commissioned officer, or other creditable person, and in the selection preference is given first, to orphans; secondly, to those whose fathers have been killed or have died on foreign service, thirdly, to those who have lost their mothers, and whose fathers are absent on foreign duty abroad; fourthly, to those whose fathers are ordered on foreign service, or whose parents have other children to maintain, and it is required that parents or friends, applying for admission of children, shall sign their consent to their re-

maining in the school so long as the governors may think fit, and to their being disposed of at a proper age, at their discretion as apprentices or servants, or, if boys, to their being placed, with their own free consent, as private soldiers in the regular army; in cases however of peculiar distress, children under the age of seven years are received, and there are at present a few of that description in the schools.

The number of children at present on the establishment, and to which the accommodations are fully competent are, as already mentioned, four hundred and fifty, of whom three hundred are boys, and one hundred and fifty girls. On the 5th of January 1799, the children in the schools were in number two hundred and two, since which period to the 5th of January 1809 (a space of about ten years) nine hundred and sixty-four have been admitted, making a total of eleven hundred and sixty-six; of these four hundred and forty-eight were in the schools on the 5th of January 1809, four hundred and thirty-eight have been apprenticed, two hundred and sixteen returned to parents, twenty-three given to the army, six boys ran away, and thirty-five only died. The annual average number of children being three hundred and twenty seven, this mortality, amounting only to three and five tenths or little more than one in a hundred, must appear very inconsiderable, and is the best evidence of the salubrity of the situation, and the care taken of the children. The dietary which is given in the appendix is judicious, and the articles of food appeared to one of the members of our board, who went to inspect this establishment, to be not only excellent in quality, but in quantity abundant, though not profuse. The children appear, with very few exceptions, to be healthy, active and cheerful, and singularly free from scrofulous complaints, there being at present but four who appear to be afflicted with that complaint, which has of late years become so common in most of our charity schools notwithstanding the pains taken to exclude it; of the three hundred boys at present in the schools, fifty of the youngest are under the care of a mistress, a female being considered as more competent to manage children

of so tender an age; the remainder are divided into five nearly equal portions, distributed among the same number of masters, each of whom having his division previously subdivided into convenient classes, with a monitor over each, instructs the boys in spelling with explanation, reading, writing, and arithmetic, and catechisms suitable to the age and capacity of each boy; the chaplain, who is constantly in one or other of the schools, besides examining from time to time the progress made by the boys under each master respectively in the different branches of education, has a class consisting of about thirty boys, composed of detachments from each school, which he lectures in the holy scriptures. The boys are kept alternately at labour and instruction; two classes of the stronger boys, about sixty in number, are employed in learning the trades of tailoring, and shoe-making, but attend the schools for instruction one hour and a half during the early part of each day; the same number, and of a similar description, attended alternately to instruction and agriculture, that most healthful and useful of all employments, three days in the week being alternately assigned to each in the last year; twenty-eight of them, with the assistance of a gardener and two labourers, cultivated nineteen acres under garden and farm, which produced not only an abundant supply of potatoes, cabbage, turnips, and other vegetables for the use of the schools, and valued at four hundred and eighty-six pounds ten shillings, but a surplus for sale, which, including young trees, produced two hundred and sixteen pounds seven shillings and three pence in the same year; the expense of cultivation was one hundred and fifty-three pounds six shillings and eleven pence, which, as the farm is rent-free, leaves a clear profit in its favour of five hundred and forty-nine pounds ten shillings and two pence-halfpenny, or twenty-eight pounds eighteen shillings and five pence per acre; and this profit, exceeding that of the preceding year by fifty-nine pounds six shillings and three pence, appears to be in a progressive state.

While these boys are employed in preparing the ground for crops, in planting cabbages and potatoes, and ploughing out the latter, their labour may be estimated at sixpence per day each on an average; at other seasons they are employed at hoeing, weeding, &c. which are of little value, save in their tendency to promote good health. The boys employed as shoemakers not having as yet attained to any considerable degree of proficiency in their trade, the average value of their labour cannot be estimated at more than twenty pence per week each, and the same may be affirmed of the boys employed as tailors.

The course of instruction for the female children is similar to that of the boys, except that a part of their time is necessarily employed in works suitable to their sex; they are taught to make their own clothes, and to knit and mend stockings for themselves and the boys, they make up all the linen for the institution, and assist in doing the house business; thus the advantage of these various occupations must appear in a favourable point of view, when we consider, that the saving produced to the institution in the articles of provisions and clothing by the children's labour is not inconsiderable, and that the instruction and improvement acquired in these several trades and manufactures must render them useful, and of course desuabie apprentices.

The expence of clothing a boy is estimated at two pounds sixteen shillings and one penny, of a girl at two pounds nineteen shillings and one penny, and the diet of a boy or girl at seven pounds four shillings and seven pence each; the children are apprenticed at the age of fourteen and upwards, the males to tailors, shoemakers, weavers, smiths, and as servants, &c. the females to mantuamakers, gloves, ribband weavers, and milliners, &c. as servants, &c. the children apprenticed to trades receive no bounty, those given as servants receive from their master or mistress a bounty of five pounds at the expiration of their apprenticeships.

The Officers of the Institution, with their respective salaries, are, a commandant, three hundred pounds per

annum, a chaplain, who is inspector of education one hundred and fifty pounds, adjutant and steward one hundred and eighty two pounds ten shillings, a surgeon one hundred pounds, a secretary eighty pounds, and an acting treasurer eighty pounds; the three last, who are not resident in the house, have no other allowance; the former, exclusively of their apartments, have a sufficient allowance of coals, candles, soap and vegetables.

The instruction of the children is committed, under the direction of the chaplain, to a serjeant-major of instruction, with six serjeant assistants, and to a matron, with three school mistresses; a serjeant master taylor, a serjeant master shoemaker, and a serjeant master gardner instruct such boys as are selected for that purpose in their respective trades; for the salaries and allowance of these, and also of the servants belonging to the institution we refer to Appendix, No. 7.

A new arrangement of the officers and servants of the institution took place on 5th of January last, when their number was increased, and the amount of their salaries augmented from one thousand and nineteen pounds one shilling and sixpence, to sixteen hundred and fifty six pounds sixteen shillings and four pence, with proportional allowances; their emoluments are certainly liberal though not profuse, none appear to be superfluous, and from the order, regularity, neatness, and cleanliness that pervade every part of the establishment, it is obvious that they perform their respective duties.

The following is a Statement of the present income of the Society.

Interest of £2,900, five per cent. government Debentures	l.	s.	d.
	145	—	—
Moiety of the Carlow estate, left by the late Henry Waddle, esq. to the Hibernian and Marine Societies in equal moieties	15	2	10h
Interest at three per cent. on £3,000, the bequest of the late Mrs. Wolfe of England; this was subject to certain annuities, but the annuitants being now dead, it will be handed over to the Institution, the interest being subject to the English income tax of 10 per cent. produces only	81	—	—
Profit of the farm, which is rent free, deducting expence of cultivation	549	10	2h
Church collections, in a declining state, produced last year	14	6	1h
Calves and dry cows sold last year	74	19	8
Bequests, donations, and subscriptions on an average of the last eight years, produced annually	214	11	9h
Total	1,109	4	10 8

To the above we must add parliamentary grants, which in the last eight years have gradually increased from four thousand three hundred and forty-one pounds four shillings, to fourteen thousand five hundred and eight pounds three shillings and eleven pence half-penny nett. The following table, formed from materials supplied by the governors, exhibits a general view of the funds whether fixed or casual, with the expenditure for each of the last eight years, and as the sums latterly expended on additional buildings have been very considerable, these are particularly specified.

From the annexed table it appears, that the average annual expence of one child has, in consequence of the rise in the price of the necessaries of life, gradually risen in the last eight years from nine pounds eighteen shillings and fourpence to fifteen pounds fifteen shillings and tenpence three farthings; and that the average for the eight years is thirteen pounds seven shillings and three pence: as, however the new arrangement in the officers and servants of the institution has caused an additional expence in salaries of six hundred and thirty-seven pounds fourteen shillings and ten pence, exclusive of increased allowances, the average expence of one child will probably in future exceed eighteen pounds per annum; and it may be necessary to observe, that potatoes and other vegetables produced by the farm, and valued last year at four hundred and eighty-six pounds ten shillings, and milk supplied from cows pastured *gratis* in the Phoenix Park, are not included in this estimate.

It appears also, that in the same period the income of the society exceeded the expenditure by the sum of seven thousand nine hundred and thirty five pounds two pence farthing, of which sum six thousand eight hundred and fifty pounds fourteen shillings and ten pence appeared to be in the bank of the right honourable David Latouche and company (who act gratuitously as treasurers) on the 31st of January 1809, a circumstance which indicates the prudent economy of the governors.

TABLE REFERRED TO.

In Years ending Jan. 5th	Parliamentary Grants.	Casual Income.	Total Income.	Expended on repairs and Buildings.	Expended in support of Institution.	Total Expenditure.	Average Number of Children each year	Average Expense of one Child per Annum, Buildings not included.
1802	£. s. d. 4,341 4 —	£. s. d. 264 12 9	£. s. d. 4,605 16 9	£. s. d. 126 18 10	£. s. d. 2,975 4 2½	£. s. d. 3,102 3 —½	300	£. s. d. 9 18 4
1803	4,365 — —	533 12 —	4,900 12 —	972 17 6	3,568 10 5	4,541 7 11	300	11 17 11
1804	4,365 — —	158 1 6	4,523 1 6	821 13 4	4,339 16 9	5,161 10 1	300	14 19 4
1805	4,365 — —	565 12 5	4,930 12 5	959 19 6½	3,508 12 8½	4,468 12 3	304	11 10 10
1806	5,919 — —	236 14 3½	6,203 14 3½	2,095 2 2	4,634 9 4	6,749 11 6	344	13 10 7½
1807	7,963 3 3½	1,093 — 3	9,056 3 6½	1,739 9 2	5,737 8 6	7,476 17 8	390	14 14 2½
1808	11,276 3 2	2,860 19 —	14,137 2 2	*2,745 14 —	5,731 6 7	10,680 4 1	381	15 — 10½
1809	14,508 3 1½	531 3 5½	15,039 7 5	6,365 1 5½	6,918 1 11	13,283 3 4½	438	15 15 10½
	57,132 14 5	6,263 15 8	63,398 10 1	15,826 15 11½	57,453 10 5	55,463 9 16½	Average of } 15 7 3 8 Years	

* In this year there was a further sum of £2,203. 3s. 6d. expended in purchasing Government Debentures for the purposes of the Institution.

In consequence of the existing and probable future state of Europe, a respectable standing army has become necessary to these islands, and it appears desirable that every reasonable inducement should be held out to the boys of this and similar institutions to volunteer into the troops of the line; this is a favourable idea with the present governors, whose arrangements are obviously calculated to impress martial ideas, and inspire an early taste for a military life; the officers, masters, and assistants are distinguished by military appellations; the classes are called companies, are regularly drilled, perform all their evolutions by beat of drum, and are judiciously encouraged by the commandant in running, leaping, and such other exercises as produce agility of body and firmness of nerves. It must be observed, however, that though in the ten last years three hundred and seventy boys were apprenticed, twenty three only were disposed of in this desirable manner; but this perhaps is to be imputed not so much to a disinclination to this line of life, as to a defect in the former charter, to the framers of which this idea did not occur; this defect however has in the last charter been obviated, the governors are now empowered to place such boys as voluntarily prefer the service, in the troops of the line, where they are entitled to the bounty allowed to volunteers by his Majesty's regulations; the education which they receive here must have a tendency to render them competent to fill the stations of petty officers in the army, and might it not be judicious to hold out to them a hope of preferment to such stations at a proper age, as an additional stimulus.

The expediency however of this change in the system of the establishment has been questioned by many, and it must be acknowledged, that the parents of these children, where such exist, almost universally prefer their being apprenticed to some trade, that may enable them to acquire a future maintenance, to the life of a soldier; it has been asserted also, that under the former system, the end for which the governors are so anxious had been in a

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great measure attained, as nearly three-fourths of those who had received their education here, finally enlisted in the troops of the line, bringing with them the useful trades of which they had previously acquired a knowledge, and thus supplying the army with tailors, shoemakers, &c. However this may be, it is certain that the present rule of selecting ushers for this institution from persons who had served in the army, although favourable to the idea of introducing order and discipline among the boys, may, unless the selection is made with great care, be productive of the worst consequences in a point of much greater importance, their moral and religious instruction. This precaution has unfortunately not been attended to, and of the five assistant ushers at present in the schools, three who have been in the army, though competent to teach reading, writing and arithmetic, appeared on examination to be totally ignorant of the simplest principles of the christian religion; much may indeed be expected from the zeal and energy of the chaplain, who is also superintendent of education, but it is obvious that no possible exertion on his part can remedy the consequences of so deplorable a deficiency in his assistants, where the number to be instructed is so considerable: and it is, we may presume, from a conviction of this truth that the governors have in the last appointment of an usher departed from their usual rule*, and thus procured a person competent to discharge every part of his duty.

In decency of manners and regularity of conduct, the children of the Hibernian School are not inferior to those in any of our public institutions, while in the appearance of health and vigour, they seem to possess a decided superiority; this is obviously the result of much care and attention in the conductors of this charity, who, no doubt, will evince an equal anxiety for the mental improvement of

* The last usher appointed (John Charles) was procured from the founding hospital, where he had filled the same department with great ability for some years, under the direction of the Rev. and Mr. Murray.
L L

the objects of their care, by removing whatever may be considered as a serious obstruction to the superintendant of education in discharge of the very important trust reposed in him.

The emulation excited in the various charitable seminaries in this city and its vicinity, which are in the habit of sending their children to the annual catechetical examinations established by "the society for discountenancing vice and promoting the knowledge and practice of the christian religion," has been productive of the most happy consequences; and it is to be lamented that any of our charitable institutions should decline to participate in an advantage, the value of which has been so decidedly ascertained by the experience of fifteen successive years. The answering at these examinations is, to every person anxious for the diffusion of religious knowledge among the children of the poor, truly interesting; the emulation, not only among the children, but among the masters, mistresses, and assistants, who feel themselves deeply interested for the credit of their respective establishments, has produced a general progressive improvement, and we trust, that so respectable an institution as the Hibernian School will not, by declining such a trial, leave room for a suspicion of conscious inferiority.

Council Chamber, Dublin Castle, }
 September 21st. 1809. } (Signed)
 WM. ARMAGH, (L. S.)
 GEO. HALL, Provost, (L. S.)
 JAS. VERSCHOYLE } (L. S.)
 Dean of St. Patrick's }
 WILLIAM DISNEY (L. S.)
 RICHD. L. EDGEWORTH (L. S.)

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

HAVING formerly offered some observations respecting the management of bees, I shall now take the liberty of making some additional remarks on that subject.

The season is now come, when the proprietor of the bees is to receive from his apiary, part of the produce of the spring and summer; and here, two subjects of consideration present themselves to view. First, in what manner are the bees to be robbed of their wax and honey? And second, which

the best time for doing so? The usual mode adopted in this country, for accomplishing the first object, is to destroy the bees, by the fumes of burning sulphur. Besides the cruelty which there seems to be, in destroying those industrious and generous insects, in order to reap the fruit of their labours, the impolicy of it argues strongly against the practice. Would it not be for the interest of the proprietor, to save his bees, in order that his stock might increase from year to year? and with this view, should he not endeavour to find out some expedient for saving the bees, at the same time that he might possess himself of part of their store?

Mr. Wildman directs that after a swarm has been put into one of his straw skeps, (which are not made of a conical shape, as is usual at present, but cylindrical, that one skep may just fit another, and may rest on it, when required) another of the same size shall be put over it, that the bees may have sufficient room to work. If necessary, a third may be added, that the bees may have every encouragement to collect an abundant stock. After the working season is over, Mr. Wildman directs that the upper skep, which the bees will have filled with wax and honey, be taken away, they having retired into the skep below, where they resolve taking up their residence for the winter. They will thus be confined to a comparatively small space, which is most suitable for them, during the winter season. But care must be taken, to observe, from time to time, in what state they are from cold, or from scarcity or provisions, in the early part of spring, when the changing season calls forth their energies, and again invites them to the field. For they should be rather plentifully supplied than otherwise, as they will thus be more forward in spring and ultimately yield a greater increase.

A friend of mine proposes to adopt a plan in some respects similar to the above. He has constructed a large case of deals sufficient to contain eight or ten hives. This opens with folding doors from behind, and is raised to about a foot and a half from the ground. Having received a swarm in